

**DON'T LET POLLUTION DESTROY  
OUR RESOURCES!  
WHAT HOMEOWNERS CAN DO**

[www.essexct.gov](http://www.essexct.gov)

**VEHICLE MAINTENANCE:**

- Wash your car on an unpaved surface.
- Check your car, boat, motorcycle and garden machinery for leaks
- Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like sand.
- Recycle used motor oil.

**LAWNS AND GARDENS:**

- Use pesticides and herbicides sparingly.
- Sweep up yard debris.
- Cover piles of dirt and mulch.
- Cultivate plantings on bare spots in yard.

**HOME REPAIRS:**

- Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and mortar.
- Use hazardous substances like paint, solvents and cleaners in the smallest amounts possible.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- Dispose of hazardous materials at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

**PET CARE:**

- Clean up pet wastes outdoors by bagging it or flushing it down your toilet.
- Dispose of Kitty Litter in the trash.

**SEPTIC SYSTEMS:**

- Pump your septic system regularly (every 3-5 years).
- Don't flush household chemicals down your drain.

**SWIMMING POOLS:**

- Store pool chemicals in a covered area.
- Use care to prevent leaks and spills of chemicals.

**LANDSCAPE DESIGN:**

- Utilize porous material, paving stones, bricks, etc., instead of asphalt for walkways.
- Build a garden shed to store fertilizer, pesticides, etc.

Residential Customer

Town of Essex  
Department of Public Works  
29 West Street  
Essex, Connecticut 06426

**PROTECTING  
WATER QUALITY  
IN THE  
TOWN OF ESSEX:  
*STREAMS AND  
RIVERS***



**TOWN OF ESSEX  
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT  
PROGRAM**

**ESSEX DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC WORKS  
&  
ESSEX CONSERVATION  
COMMISSION**

## WHAT IS STORMWATER RUNOFF?

Stormwater runoff is rain or snowmelt that flows over the ground. As it flows over driveways, streets, lawns and sidewalks; it picks up debris, chemicals dirt and other pollutants. Stormwater flows into drainage ditches or catch basins which are part of the municipal separate storm sewer system (or MS4).

Stormwater runoff is discharged untreated directly into lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands or coastal waters.

## THE EFFECTS OF POLLUTION

Water that we use for swimming, fishing, recreation or for drinking can be harmed by polluted stormwater runoff. High bacteria levels in lakes will result in swimming not being allowed. Hazardous wastes in lakes and streams will poison fish and humans. Trash washed into these lakes and streams can choke birds and small animals.



## WHAT MUNICIPALITIES ARE DOING

In 1972, Congress enacted the Clean Water Act to prohibit the discharge of any pollutant into waters of the U.S. from a point source (e.g. from a wastewater treatment plant). Later, Congress prohibited polluted

stormwater discharges as well. In 2003, local governments were assigned responsibility for

protecting the quality of the stormwater that they discharge from their MS4 into the

waters of the U.S. Municipalities are now required to prepare and

follow their stormwater management plan. Municipalities

are using best management good housekeeping practices at town-

owned facilities and during vehicle maintenance to prevent

leachate from polluting the stormwater that exits the site.

Municipalities are sweeping streets and cleaning out

catchbasins regularly to keep debris out of the MS4.

Municipalities will be adopting local regulations that will prohibit dumping or discharging contaminants into

the MS4. Municipalities are adopting up-to-date methods to keep our water resources clean.